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The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the **Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)**.

For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

The InfoGram

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The Station Nightclub Fire 10 Years Later

Ten years ago this week, [The Station Nightclub](#) in Rhode Island caught fire during a concert when pyrotechnics ignited insulation and spread to the ceiling. The fire killed 100 people, bringing renewed national attention to fire safety in public places.

Fires such as this one often have [historic consequences](#) (PDF, 209 Kb) on building and life safety codes; in this case it motivated improved sprinkler codes and better permitting in the use of pyrotechnics indoors. Unfortunately, a similar [nightclub fire in Brazil](#) last month killed over 200 people, showing lessons learned are not always influential enough to reach across international borders.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) conducted an investigation to determine cause of the fire, evaluate evacuation methods, and to recommend changes based on the findings. The primary recommendations [within the control of state and local governments](#) include:

- Adopting building and fire codes base on the national model,
- Implementing aggressive inspections based on those codes, and
- Ensuring enough qualified fire inspectors and building plans examiners are on staff to carry out those inspections.

(Source: [NIST](#))

Revised Law Gives Tribes Disaster Aid Powers

In January, the president signed the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 into law. The Act includes a major provision affecting tribal disaster requests; specifically, it allows federally recognized tribal governments the ability to apply directly to the president for federal emergency aid and disaster declarations.

Before this revision to the [Stafford Act of 1988](#), tribal governments were required to request aid through a state governor. Often, tribal lands span multiple states and disaster aid requests had to be made in all states involved. State aid request approval times can vary greatly and have a serious impact on tribal lands.

[Tribal leaders lobbied for the change](#), which was supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the White House. FEMA is addressing procedural issues and interim guidance will be released within the near future.

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate [breaks down the important changes](#) and gives examples of how this will improve the tribal disaster assistance process and how this affects the procedures for both state and tribal leaders.

(Source: [FEMA Tribal Affairs](#))

New “Academia and Resilience” FEMA Site

FEMA is working to create single-topic or single-audience pages, making a one-stop shop experience for specific emergency and disaster management groups. The most recent release is the “[Academia and Resilience](#)” site geared toward campus security, emergency management, faculty, administration, and students. The site collects FEMA programs pertaining to education such as:

- Training opportunities through the Emergency Management Institute and the Department of Homeland Security,
- Tools and resources for campus safety officers and emergency managers,
- Information on secondary education emergency management programs and schools offering them,
- Research resources for emergency management students and faculty, and
- Opportunities within FEMA or DHS for current students.

The Academia site falls under the [FEMA Private Sector](#) section which aims to develop better disaster mitigation, response, and recovery through public-private coordination.

(Source: [FEMA Academia and Resilience](#))

National Severe Weather Preparedness Week

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and FEMA have declared March 3-9, 2013, as [National Severe Weather Preparedness Week](#). The theme this year is to encourage individuals to “Be a Force of Nature” by not only taking the time to be prepared for severe weather themselves but also by encouraging others to prepare.

[The site](#) supplies downloadable talking points, social media tools, presentations, logos, sample press releases, and blog posts. Regional emergency management outreach efforts can utilize these customizable documents for public education campaigns on the severe weather threats to their area.

Most states have their own preparedness weeks throughout the year focused on severe weather common in their region. [NOAA maintains a listing](#) of these and the nationally-recognized weather awareness weeks.

Emergency managers can also direct families and businesses to FEMA’s [Ready.gov](#) site for preparedness plans and tips. Ready.gov highlights specific natural or man-made hazards; lists steps to take before, during, and after them; and provides the public with additional information and resources through a variety of media outlets.

(Source: [NOAA](#))

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